

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121 at page 7, line 6, by adding the following text:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS:

Fig. 1 depicts cloning vectors for the expression of UdP and PNP enzymes;

Figs. 2A-2E depict 5' and 3' sequences of UdP and deoD genes cloned in plasmid pUC18. Restriction sites of different constructs are underlined; the ribosome binding site (RBS) is reported in bold. The bases of nucleotide sequence of UdP and deoD genes and the amino acid residues of PNP and UdP proteins are reported in italics;

Figs. 3A and 3B depict construction of cloning vectors for the expression of UdP and PNP enzymes;

Fig. 4 depicts construction of cloning vectors for the expression of UdP-(L)-PNP enzymes;

Fig. 5 depicts expression of PNP and UdP in recombinant *E. Coli* strains. Gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) of total protein extracts from strains MG1655/pGM707, MG1655/pGM708 and MG1655/pGM716 grown over night in LD medium supplemented with 12.5 mg/liter of tetracycline. Lanes 15, 2 and 0.3 correspond to protein extracted from 15, 2 and 0.3 ml of bacterial culture.